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Tues. Sept. 23, 1980 St. Louis Globe-Democrat 4A

Sauget site investigated for toxic chemicals

St. Louis, Mo. (The St. Louis Globe-Democrat) — "We're taking it very seriously, but we're not going to stick our finger in it and cause a big mess," said EPA Administrator Douglas M. Costle today.

EPA SCIENTISTS will release results of an analysis of water samples taken from private wells in the Columbia River valley near the Sauget site, which is the site of a major chemical plant owned by the Monsanto Co., in a report to be made available to the public.

But, while many said a severely leaking well was the cause of the problem, EPA officials said they do not know if that (chemical pollutants) haven't gotten into the ground water.

"We'll be doing more tests later in the Sauget area," said a spokesman for the agency, which is operating a major investigation of the Sauget area, which is a major chemical plant owned by the Monsanto Co., in a report to be made available to the public.

Reports of possible dumping of toxic waste at the site allegedly operated by the Monsanto Co., in a report to be made available to the public.

Jeffrey M. Maury, director of the Missouri Department of Environmental Protection, said he had no information about the Sauget site, but he said he was looking into reports that the late Leo Sauget, the first mayor of the town that bears his name, operated an immense landfill southeast of Dead Creek, which is a residential, growing ditch polluted with cancer-causing chemicals and toxic metals.

"There's a belief that 50-60 chances out of 100, there's something there," Maury told The

the former mayor of Missouri (the town was renamed Sauget in 1887) said he had no information about the Sauget site, but he said he was looking into reports that the late Leo Sauget, the first mayor of the town that bears his name, operated an immense landfill southeast of Dead Creek, which is a residential, growing ditch polluted with cancer-causing chemicals and toxic metals.

MAURY TOLD THE GLOBE-Democrat the EPA does not know if the dump in the source of the Dead Creek pollution, or if it is a situation the agency will have to investigate separately.

"We don't want to be alarmed because we don't know what's there," Maury said.

Ann Curt, assistant Illinois attorney general for pollution cases in the southern part of the state, said her office is watching the EPA investigation closely and is prepared to prosecute when the person responsible is found.

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Joseph P. Tondale has asked eight chemical manufacturers to supply information he says would help state officials find abandoned chemical waste dumps.

The firms have been asked to volunteer information on how they have disposed of such wastes in the last 20 years, Tondale's office announced Monday.

ST. LOUIS AREA firms asked to supply the details include Monsanto Co., Mallinckrodt Inc., and FMC-Petroleum Industries Inc., Tondale's office said.

State natural resources director Fred A. Laffer said the information would help in tracking down illegal dumping.

The firms are asked to outline the type and amount of wastes disposed of, the handlers used and the location of the disposal sites.

Meanwhile, Tondale's plan for encouraging the disposal of hazardous chemical wastes by means other than landfills remained nearly intact during initial action in a state Senate committee.

No major changes were made by the Senate Energy Committee Monday in the parts of the Tondale package that cleared the House last week.

Laffer called the committee's version, which generally makes several technical changes from the House-passed proposal, a balanced approach that appears satisfactory.

One change made by the committee was the substitution of a new tax on waste generators based on volume limited to help finance state regulation of such disposal.

The tax, with a maximum of \$1,000, replaced a House plan to tax only those who dump at landfills.

Chemical firms asked to supply data on wastes

From The Globe-Democrat
Jefferson City Bureau

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CER 069595

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF WASTES IN LEO SAUGET DUMP

REPORTER & MEDIA: Pat Szymczak, Belleville Edition of
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

TIME & DATE: September 19, 1980

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

- Q. I HAVE LEARNED THAT A DUMP OWNED BY LEO SAUGET, EAST OF "DEAD CREEK" AND SOUTH OF QUEENY AVE., AROUND NICKELL AVE., WAS USED TO DISPOSE OF WASTES FROM SEVERAL COMPANIES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING MONSANTO. CAN YOU CONFIRM?
- A. When Monsanto acquired the Commercial Acid Plant in 1917, we continued to dispose of industrial wastes at the plant had done in the past, and we used a landfill operated by Leo Sauget in that area, until the late '20s or early '30s. As we acquired more land, we stopped using that landfill sometime in the late '20s or early '30s.
- Q. WHERE DID YOU DISPOSE OF PLANT WASTES AFTER THAT PERIOD?
- A. We disposed of the chemical wastes on land owned by us.
- Q. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PLANT WAS INVOLVED IN PRODUCING CHEMICAL WARFARE PRODUCTS AT THE PLANT DURING WORLD WAR II, AND THAT WASTES FROM THESE OPERATIONS WERE DISPOSED OF AT THE LEO SAUGET DUMP SOUTH OF QUEENY AVE. IS THIS CORRECT?
- A. We acquired land north of the plant in 1928. We sold the tract to the U.S. Government on Feb. 24, 1943. The Plant that produced chemicals for World War II was located on that land. It was owned by the Federal Government and operated by Monsanto under the direction of the Federal Government. After the war, we leased the property and subsequently in 1960 we purchased it. In 1971 the property was sold to the Edwin Cooper firm.

As for Monsanto disposing chemical wastes at the Leo Sauget site in question, we stopped using it in the late '20s or early '30s, well before World War II.

- Q. WHERE WERE THE WASTES DISPOSED OF FROM THE CHEMICAL WARFARE OPERATION?
- A. It is our understanding that these wastes were disposed of on what was then Government property.
- Q. WHAT CHEMICALS WERE MANUFACTURED FOR THE WAR EFFORT AT THE PLANT?
- A. The U.S. Government owned the plant, and the Government had the information on the disposal of wastes. We don't have that information.

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SOURCE OF ANSWER

E. N. Brasfield/J. W. Molloy/P. E. Heisler/
M. R. Foresman

HANDLED BY:

John J. Spano

G-2967 (REV. 8/79)

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Soil Samples -- Monsanto/IEPA

REPORTER & MEDIA: Casey Bukro, Chicago Tribune

TIME & DATE: November 11, 1980

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL BE RELEASING A REPORT ON THE DEAD CREEK AREA. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?

A. Monsanto has been assisting the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in determining the content of the soil samples and therefore the release of the information concerning the findings should come from the IEPA in Springfield. However, the results of both analyses were generally in agreement within the accuracy of the testing and sampling techniques.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA ON WHERE THE MATERIAL CAME FROM?

A. It would be purely speculation on my part to say where the material in Dead Creek came from.

Q. HAS MONSANTO EVER BEEN IMPLICATED AS THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM?

A. No. Keep in mind that Dead Creek is near a highly industrialized area. Monsanto has never been implicated as the source of the Dead Creek situation. The IEPA may have some ideas as to what the cause is, but I couldn't really say.

Q. DID MONSANTO EVER USE DEAD CREEK AS A DUMPING AREA?...SAY 20 YEARS AGO WHEN WASTE PRACTICES WERE DIFFERENT THAN THEY ARE TODAY.

A. No. Monsanto has never disposed of wastes in Dead Creek.

Q. HOW DID MONSANTO GET INVOLVED IN THE SOIL SAMPLING?

A. Monsanto offered to assist the IEPA in determining the soil content of Dead Creek. We had the analytical resources to help and as far as proximity, we were close. Monsanto, as a responsible industrial citizen of the community, is concerned about Dead Creek and we hope that our assistance will help resolve the situation.

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CER 069671

(The reporter said he had been in contact with IEPA in Springfield and will wait for its report.)
SOURCE OF ANSWER HANDLED BY:

File

Sarah Gainer Collins

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